

4-1-1862

Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Camp No. 1 April 1st 1862

Dear Mother,

It is a splendid spring morning and the boys are as merry as crickets. The sun shines bright and warm and the boys of the camp are celebrating "All Fool Day" in the most approved fashion. Well, all this don't affect me very much and I can occupy my time better in writing to you. Frank goes to Edwards' to work. It is a good place and I do not know of so model a farmers establishment in any other place. Uncle Truman has the science of doing a big days work and doing it in season, and that is just what a youngster like Frank wants to know. Our mail does not run very regularly now on account of the regular boats being seized by Government as transports. We expect however a mail this evening and I shall look for the letter and

hope to get a letter from you. I must
write to Frank and will do so to day
if I can get a stamp to pay its postage.
We expect to be paid off this week and
have some hope of drawing this month's
pay instead of three. In fact we ought
to get it but it is by no means certain yet.
If we should get it I could spare you x
and not miss it at all at all.

I will send you the five whether or no.

I get along here very pleasantly - as much
so as any who don't carry a commission,
Frank spoke in his letter of wooden galls.

I saw nothing but the most approved kind
of ordnance in the rebel fortifications and plenty
of it I think I can get Douglas Sturges & Co.
to carry some little souvenirs of my trip
to secessia. We can take them to Uncle Willard.

It now occurs to me that you wanted to lend
Uncle Henry my hammock. Lend it to him
for the season if you like. I do not wish
however to lose any of the companions of my
journeyings, so do not give it away.

We were reviewed a week ago by Gen
Hooker, and though we had no warning
at all, but turned out at five minutes
notice. We came out in such neat order
and drilled so accurately that he exclaimed -
"This is not only the best drilled regiment
in the Division but by God it's the best
I ever saw. Hooker is an old soldier and knows
his business well, hence we value such a
compliment. We are all ready to move
at any time and may go to-morrow, or
stay here a month. Mean while we are
getting rather impatient of McClellan's
style of doing business. There is nothing made
in a long campaign, for more lives are lost
by disease than are saved by avoiding actual
battle. I am acclimated pretty thoroughly
and don't fear disease but I am looking at
the general rule. I don't burnside during sloshing
work. I have not heard from any-body for
a long time. Last week I got a ^{paper} letter from
Chas. Morgan. I had sent to the girls - Ellen,
John, and Abbie several numbers of the

Censor containing my letter, and Abah sent me
a Republican in return. It was like seeing an
old friend and I must say that it is the
best conducted paper I know of far or near.
I have now and then a game of chess and
stand my hand with any I have played
with as yet. I can get plenty of good reading
and don't fail to improve my chances.

It is a fine day and I expect a wretchedly hard
drill to day. We have no fire in the tent and
don't need it to day. We shall doubtless keep our
powder to night. What is John up to this season.
I suppose that you will try to raise considerable
wheat this summer. I hope that it will be a more
favorable season than the last. How much stock
do you put this season. Don't ever get caught
in the fall with more stock than you can
winter for it is dear business. Whenever I get a farm
it will be where hog is out of fashion. How does
Father stand it. I hope his health is good. I hope to
be you all before many months but none can
say when our labors will end. Write as often as you
can and direct as formerly.

Your aff son

Arthur

May Stevens 75 My

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Mr Austin Chapin
Horseshoe
N.Y.